



PECAN REPORT

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PECAN PRODUCTION

The first United States pecan forecast for the 2004 crop is scheduled to be released on October 12, 2004. A limited forecast will be issued in December and February. The limited forecasts include revisions, if necessary, for large pecan-growing states only.

Pecans: Utilized Production by State, and United States 2001 - 2003

State	Improved 1/			Native & Seedling			Total		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
---Thousand Pounds---									
ALA	10,000	4,000	7,000	5,000	1,000	1,000	15,000	5,000	8,000
AZ	21,000	16,000	22,500				21,000	16,000	22,500
ARK	1,950	1,200	1,400	650	500	2,400	2,600	1,700	3,800
CALIF	3,700	3,800	3,700				3,700	3,800	3,700
FLA	1,200	500	500	2,100	900	1,600	3,300	1,400	2,100
GA	85,000	42,000	60,000	25,000	3,000	15,000	110,000	45,000	75,000
KS				2,200	2,900	2,000	2,200	2,900	2,000
LA	3,500	2,000	4,000	10,500	4,000	16,000	14,000	6,000	20,000
MISS	3,000	2,100	4,800	1,500	900	2,200	4,500	3,000	7,000
N MEX	60,000	36,000	55,000				60,000	36,000	55,000
NC	2,700	1,500	2,200	500	400	300	3,200	1,900	2,500
OKLA	2,000	1,500	1,500	18,000	8,500	4,500	20,000	10,000	6,000
SC	2,500	120	3,300	1,500	80	1,200	4,000	200	4,500
TEX	50,000	20,000	37,000	25,000	20,000	33,000	75,000	40,000	70,000
US	246,550	130,720	202,900	91,950	42,180	79,200	338,500	172,900	282,100

1/ Budded, grafted, or topworked varieties.

WALNUT PRODUCTION

California production is forecast at 325,000 tons, virtually unchanged from last year's record high production of 326,000 tons. Excellent growing conditions, combined with a 2 percent increase in bearing acres, to 217,000, have contributed to a deviation from the traditional large yearly swings in production for this alternate bearing crop. The September forecast is based on the walnut objective measurement survey conducted July 26 through August 24, 2004.

Survey data indicate average nuts set per tree at 1,526, down 5 percent from last year's average of 1,599 nuts. Compared to last year, nuts set for the Hartley and Franquette varieties are up 18 percent and 76 percent, respectively, while nuts set for Chandler and Serr varieties are down 13 percent and 30 percent, respectively. Percent of sound kernels in-shell is a record high 98.2 percent Statewide, compared to 97.0 percent last year. In-shell weight per nut is 22.5 grams, while the average in-shell suture measurement is 32.6 millimeters. The average length in-shell is 39.0 millimeters. These compare to last year's measurements of 22.4 grams in-shell weight per nut, 32.5 millimeters average in-shell suture measurement, and 39.1 millimeters average length in-shell.

CROP & STATE	2002	2003	2004
Utilized Production ---Tons---			
WALNUTS			
CALIF	282,000	326,000	325,000

ALMOND PRODUCTION

The July 1 final forecast for California's 2004 almond production is forecast at 1.08 billion pounds, shelled basis, down 2 percent from the previous forecast but up 4 percent from the 2003 crop. The current forecast is based on the objective measurement survey conducted in California almond orchards. The almond bloom started in mid-February accompanied by heavy rain and wind. However, the bloom was very intense and both the variety and pollinators bloomed together which may have contributed to the good set. The bloom was strong and stayed on the trees for much longer than normal. Very warm weather the first three weeks of March advanced crop development and the crop is currently at least two weeks ahead of normal. Kernel size appears to be normal. Overall, the crop appears to be fairly uniform throughout the State and the growers have indicated they expect to have a good crop.

CROP & STATE	2002	2003	2004
---1,000 Pounds---			
ALMONDS (Shelled Basis) 1/			
CALIF	1,090,000	1,040,000	1,080,000
1/ Utilized Production			

HAZELNUT PRODUCTION

Hazelnuts: Production in Oregon is forecast at 44,000 tons, up 16 percent from last year's revised production of 37,900 tons and more than double the 2002 crop of 19,500 tons. If realized, the 2004 hazelnut crop would deviate from the alternate bearing cycle which has been typical of the Oregon crop for the past decade. Last year was considered an "up" year based on this historical production pattern. Excellent growing conditions began last summer and continued through last fall, allowing trees to put on good growth. Also, excellent early season bloom and pollinating conditions helped achieve a very high nut set. These factors, combined with a very light nut drop this summer, have all contributed to this crop deviating from the normal pattern. This year's forecasted production would be the third highest hazelnut crop on record, behind the 2001 crop of 49,500 tons and the 1997 crop of 46,650 tons.

The results of the Oregon hazelnut objective yield survey show the number of nuts picked per tree at 298 this year. This compares with 261 nuts last year and 222 nuts in 2002. The percentage of good nuts is 85.1 percent, down from 88.0 percent last year but up from 84.4 percent in 2002. The average dry weight of the good nuts is 3.28 grams, 0.39 gram heavier than last year but 0.03 gram lighter than 2002. Brown stained nuts amount to just 0.10 percent of all good nuts sampled this year, a historic low, surpassing last year's record low of 0.12 percent.

CROP & STATE	2002	2003	2004
Utilized Production ---Tons---			
HAZELNUTS			
OREG	19,500	37,900	44,000

PISTACHIO PRODUCTION

The California pistachio forecast normally released in the September Crop Production report will not be issued this year. The indications used for setting the September pistachio forecast have been produced by the objective measurement survey, funded by the pistachio industry. Earlier this year, NASS and industry representatives agreed to not issue a 2004 forecast and to conduct additional research to improve the objective measurement model. A decision will be made at a later date if and when in-season production forecasts will resume.

CROP & STATE	2002	2003	2004
Utilized Production ---1,000 Pounds---			
PISTACHIO NUTS 2/			
CALIF	303,000	119,000	

2/ September 1 forecast discontinued in 2004. Preliminary production estimate will be published in the "Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2004 Preliminary Summary" to be released in January 2005.

Source: Agricultural Statistics Board, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C.

This is the First Pecan Report of the Season. The next report is scheduled to be released the week of October 10, 2004.

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